

June 1, 2012

# Weekly Views

IDOC staff joined representatives, athletes, and supporters of Special Olympics Indiana, along with fellow law enforcement officers, at Victory Field in downtown Indianapolis for the final leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run to kick off the 2012 Summer Games. (see photo below)

Camp Summit Boot Camp has been awarded Level 4 by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators for Performance Based Standards (PbS). Level 4 is the highest level possible in PbS and represents that the facility staff has a high degree of commitment to improving the lives of the youth we serve.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility accepted a \$300 check from The Screaming Eagles R/C Club to help buy vegetable plants for the facility garden. The garden will be maintained by PLUS offenders, supervised by facility staff and a Purdue University Master Gardner intern. All harvested food will be given to local food banks and shelters as part of the facility's continuing effort to be a viable part of the community.

A donation of over 200 assorted books was presented to the Rockville Correctional Facility by members of the Indiana State University Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society and students in the Special Topics in Criminology: Correctional Institutions in Indiana class. Following the donation, guests were invited to tour the facility.



The ADOPT nursery at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility is full again! The newest residents are a basset hound mother and her 9 puppies that came from a local rescue. Since the mother is unable to feed all 9 puppies, the facility was asked to take them in so that the puppies could be bottle fed every two hours. The 3 girls and 6 boys were only 12 days old when they were brought to the facility.

It is hay baling time at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. Wabash is donating its part of the harvest to the Putnamville Retired Thoroughbred Horse Project. Not mowing creates tons of bales of hay, employs an area farmer, provides funding for PEN and saves Wabash over \$3,300 in fuel costs each year! (see photo left)



In response to the Correctional Employees Week, Westville Correctional Facility hosted their own appreciation effort by donating \$591 to the local Jaycees Deserving Children Shopping Fund. The money was raised by hosting a pie throwing contest, where staff were encouraged to fill donations jars to support their favorite "recipients". Assistant Superintendent Mike Scott and Major Dan Forker took one for the team, a pie in the face each.

Branchville Correctional Facility hosted its first graduation ceremony for the Reformatory Residential Re-Entry Program. Thirty-three offenders successfully completed the six month behavior modification program. Special guest Dr. Stephen Hall congratulated the graduates along with their family members.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility was selected to receive a grant from the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries. The grant money will be used to purchase library books and magazines for the students to use.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a ceremony to honor the most recent graduates of the Ivy Tech GED program. Pastor Demetrius Warren served as the keynote speaker for the event. Pastor Warren is the founder of Everlasting Dominion Ministries and the Senior Pastor of the Everlasting Dominion Fellowship Church in Kokomo, IN. The facility was also honored to have IDOC Deputy Commissioner of Re-Entry Randy Koester attend the program and speak to the graduates and guests.

Indiana State University (ISU) Criminal Justice students toured the Putnamville Correctional Facility. ISU professor Dr. Shannon Barton-Bellessa was very complimentary of staff, facility operations and was impressed with the various programs that were available to the offender population.

On Memorial Day, INVET residents placed memorial flags under the magnolia tree by the Administration Building at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Education Facility. Both residents and staff raised \$100 to donate to "Wish For Our Heroes," a national non-profit organization which assists active-duty United States Service Men and Women across the US. Each flag is a memorial for family members and friends who have served their country. Every year, the INVET Unit sponsors this fundraiser.

In remembrance of Memorial Day, the American Legion members from the community of Michigan City came to Indiana State Prison and placed a wreath in the cemetery and played taps.